MARVEL

3

EWING
WALTZ
RAMÍREZ
ARCINIEGA

RATED T+

KNULL

KNULL

Behold **KNULL**...the King in Black, reduced to being **HELA's** plaything--or is he? Knull believes he has outsmarted his captor, escaping Hela's dungeon and fleeing to an unnamed planet to find the Spear of Light, lost during a battle with an ancient nemesis. But Hela claims he's playing into her hands and has been watching his every move, enlisting **THANOS** and **TYR** to keep Knull within her clutches. Unbeknownst to Knull, Thanos is on his way. Can Knull survive?

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"DO YOU KNOW WHAT *LOVE* IS?

"I HAVE LOVED **DEATH** WITH A FIRE AND A PASSION **UNMATCHED** BY ALL THE COLLECTED VERSES OF THE UNIVERSE'S MOST CELEBRATED **BALLADS.**

"I HAVE UNDERTAKEN **IMPOSSIBLE** QUESTS, LAID **INTRICATE** PLANS, DREAMED **GREAT** AND **TERRIBLE** DREAMS...

"...BECAUSE THAT IS **WHO** I AM.

"I AM THE **POET.** I AM THE **PHILOSOPHER.**

"I AM THE **GRAND DREAMER** WHOSE NAME CONJURES THE **HORROR** OF THE END **ACROSS** GALAXIES.

"I AM **THANOS,** LITTLE GOD..."

NAMELESS PLANET.

...AND WHO EXACTLY ARE *YOU* BUT A SINGLE, *SHRIEKING NOTE*...

...HOWLING THROUGH *ETERNITY?*

HRGGK... GLKK... NRGG...

AH, WELL.

POINTS FOR *EFFORT.*

IT SEEMS I'VE **MISSPOKEN.** YOU RANK FAR **BELOW** A WILD CUR, VOID CREATURE...

...SO **HOWLING** DOESN'T ENTER INTO THE EQUATION.

NO, YOU ARE NAUGHT BUT A MEWLING **SHEEP.**

WHOMP

AND ALL SHEEP REQUIRE A **SHEPHERD** TO HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY.

I AM HERE TO HELP **YOU** FIND YOUR WAY, KNULL.

I... I SUPPOSE THESE ARE **YOUR** MANGY SHEEPDOGS, THEN?

NO. THESE **OUTRIDERS** ARE MY **CHILDREN.**

LOYAL...

...UNTO DEATH!

FWAM

AH, YES... DEATH.

IT WASN'T HER BEAUTY THAT EARNED MY LOVE--

THNK

--IT WAS HER SIMPLICITY.

FWUD

HER FINALITY.

SHLIIP

DEATH AS THE TRUE VOID. NO MERCY. NO SYMPATHY.

NO SENTIMENTALITY.

GUH!

EXCEPT... SHE WORE THAT HUMAN FACE.

EVEN AS THE SKULL BENEATH THE SKIN, SHE EMBODIED THE LIVES SHE TOOK.

CHNK

THAT'S WHAT I COULDN'T STOMACH IN THE END--

--THAT EMPATHY.

BUT IF I WAS DISAPPOINTED IN HER, I *DESPISE* YOU.

YOU ARE *OF* THE VOID, AND YET...

...YOU HAVE A *FACE* I CAN STRIKE.

FWAM

BONES I CAN BREAK.

KRAKK

A *VOICE* THAT SHRIEKS IN PAIN.

FZAKK

GYAAGH!

HONESTLY, KNULL...YOU'RE NOT EVEN *TRYING.*

HEH. I'LL GRANT YOU ONE THING, TITAN.

IN ALL YOUR COMINGS AND GOINGS...

WHA--?

...YOU CERTAINLY CAST A LONG SHADOW.

HM. MUCH BETTER.

BUT TELL ME, KNULL--

--WHERE IS THE DARKNESS FOR YOU TO EXPLOIT...

...IN ALL THIS BLINDING LIGHT?

NNFT!

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, THE ANSWER TO THAT QUERY CAN ONLY BE FOUND...

WHERE--?

...WITHIN!

SNIPER

AAGH!

HRRFF. HRRFF.

FUMP

I MUST SAY, THANOS...

...ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL...

...I MUCH PREFER BROKEN BONES.

WHUD

WELL?

WE SERVE. WE SERVE.

DO YOU SEE, MY CHILDREN? DESPITE OUR LOSSES, OUR FAMILY GROWS.

A NEW VOID AWAITS US NOW.

I WILL SEIZE IT. CONQUER IT.

CONTROL IT.

FLASHBACK

AND WE WILL BECOME MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE!

FROM ENDLESS DARKNESS...ACCURSED, BURNING LIGHT.

FROM BURNING LIGHT...

...COLD, MERCILESS REVENGE.

FWOOM

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT LOVE IS?

ORBITAL SPACE STATION. NEW MOORD.
HOMEWORLD OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF BADOON.

"A RATHER ODD QUESTION TO ASK AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I REALIZE, BUT I MUST ADMIT..."

...I'M GROWING QUITE ENAMORED OF MY NEW POWERS, GOOD TYR.

AYE. THAT MUCH IS CLEAR, LADY HELA.

POWERS THAT APPEAR TO BE INCREASING WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.

PERHAPS YOUR OPPONENT IS FINALLY-- DEAD?

SLASH

NO. KNULL YET LIVES-- THOUGH SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKENED NOW.

I STILL HEAR HIS PATHETIC LAMENTATIONS WITHIN THE HIVE MIND...

...ALBEIT LIKE A DISTANT ECHO.

FOR MY PART, I MUCH FAVOR UTTER SILENCE OVER ECHOES FROM ONE SO CUNNING.

FEAR NOT, GENERAL. KNULL'S RIDICULOUS QUEST FOR POWERS HE CAN NEITHER COMPREHEND NOR CONTROL WILL BE HIS ULTIMATE UNDOING.

THE ENTIRETY OF HIS VOID POWERS SHALL SOON BELONG TO ME.

PROTECT THE GENERAL!

OH, LOOK, TYR...

...THESE SILLY CREATURES HAVE A GENERAL TOO.

TH-THIS STATION MAY FALL, SORCERESS, BUT YOU'LL NEVER TAKE OUR PLANET.

YES, WELL...YOUR PLANET IS ALREADY LOST, I'M AFRAID.

THE FIRST OF MANY.

I'M SIMPLY HERE TO TAKE IN THE VIEW.

FROM A NAMELESS PLANET TO A NAMELESS STAR, IT SEEMS OUR JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT BECOMES MORE **IGNOMINIOUS** WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, MY CHILDREN.

AND YET, DESPITE THE **INFERNO** THAT AWAITS US, WE MUST CONTINUE FORWARD AT **ALL** COSTS.

OUR ULTIMATE DESTINY IS LOCKED AWAY WITHIN THE **CORE** OF THIS STAR, AND I NOW POSSESS THE **KEY** TO OPEN IT...

...AND THE **HARSH EXPERIENCE** TO SURVIVE IT.

AND WE KNOW TO **WHOM** WE OWE **APPRECIATION** FOR THAT...

...DON'T WE?

"THE SNIVELING EARTHLING AND VENOM HOST, EDDIE BROCK...

"...WHO EXILED ME TO A FIERY, DEATHLESS LIMBO...

"...TEARING AWAY MY STATION AS KING IN BLACK...

"...ONLY TO PATHETICALLY SURRENDER MY RIGHTFUL CROWN LIKE THE WORTHLESS INSECT HE TRULY IS.

"AND NOW THAT WRETCHED WITCH HAS HER SIGHTS SET ON MY THRONE."

BUT **HELA** WILL FAIL TOO. AS DID HER LAPDOG, **THANOS**, BEFORE HER.

AS DID **BROCK.**

AND IT IS BROCK'S **PITIFUL VISAGE** I SEE BEFORE ME NOW, CHILDREN. HIS **WEAKNESS** AND HIS **FRAILTY** THAT DRIVE ME FORWARD.

IT IS BROCK I HATE **MOST** OF ALL.

MORE THAN THANOS. **MORE** THAN HELA.

MORE, EVEN, THAN THE **LIGHT.**

AND YET IT IS BROCK WHO WILL **SAVE** ME.

SAVE US **ALL.**

RAAGH

HNF!

WHERE--?

WELCOME TO THE *LUMINA*, KNULL.

TOOK YOU *LONG* ENOUGH.

THE ILLUMINATED (A.K.A. EDDIE BROCK OF EARTH-62466).

TO BE CONTINUED.

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

WATCH OUT, WEB-HEADS!

DEATH SPIRAL is in full terrifying swing this month and next! March and April issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and VENOM are fully devoted to this story, and both books are jam-packed with twists, turns, surprises, revelations, and TORMENT! Who is Torment, you ask? Torment is the name of the scariest serial killer in the Marvel Universe—at least since Eddie Brock stopped Carnage from killing to his red-symbiote heart's content. Once Carnage learned of Torment, Carnage knocked down the first domino in the elaborate domino setup that is DEATH SPIRAL. Spider-Man and Venom aren't safe, and neither are ANY OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. Elderly aunts are in more danger than usual until the end of April! DEATH SPIRAL's stakes are high and so is the tension, so take your heart medication (if you take such meds, and if not, check with your doctor if you SHOULD get some) and strap in!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM
DEATH SPIRAL

THMP-LIST

- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #8
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23
- ❑ BLACK CAT #8
- ❑ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #4
- ❑ PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR #2
- ❑ VENOM #255

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #24

- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #5
- ❑ PLANET SHE-HULK #5
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #25
- ❑ DUNGEONS OF DOOM #3
- ❑ KNULL #3
- ❑ PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #2

THIS MONTH'S HOST

Currently working in the VENOM-VERSE, along with STAR WARS and DAREDEVIL.

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

Call me sentimental, but I'd say it's everyday people who stand up to do the right thing even when it's tough. We're seeing a lot of that these days—bring it on.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

Kingpin! The guy's a hard worker, never quits, and always gets results. My spirit animal!

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Shave your head, work out until you have a physique like a Sherman tank, and buy a bunch of white suits.

NAME: Charles Soule

TITLE: Writer! Dreamweaver! Story Sculptor!

WORKS ON:
How much time do you have?

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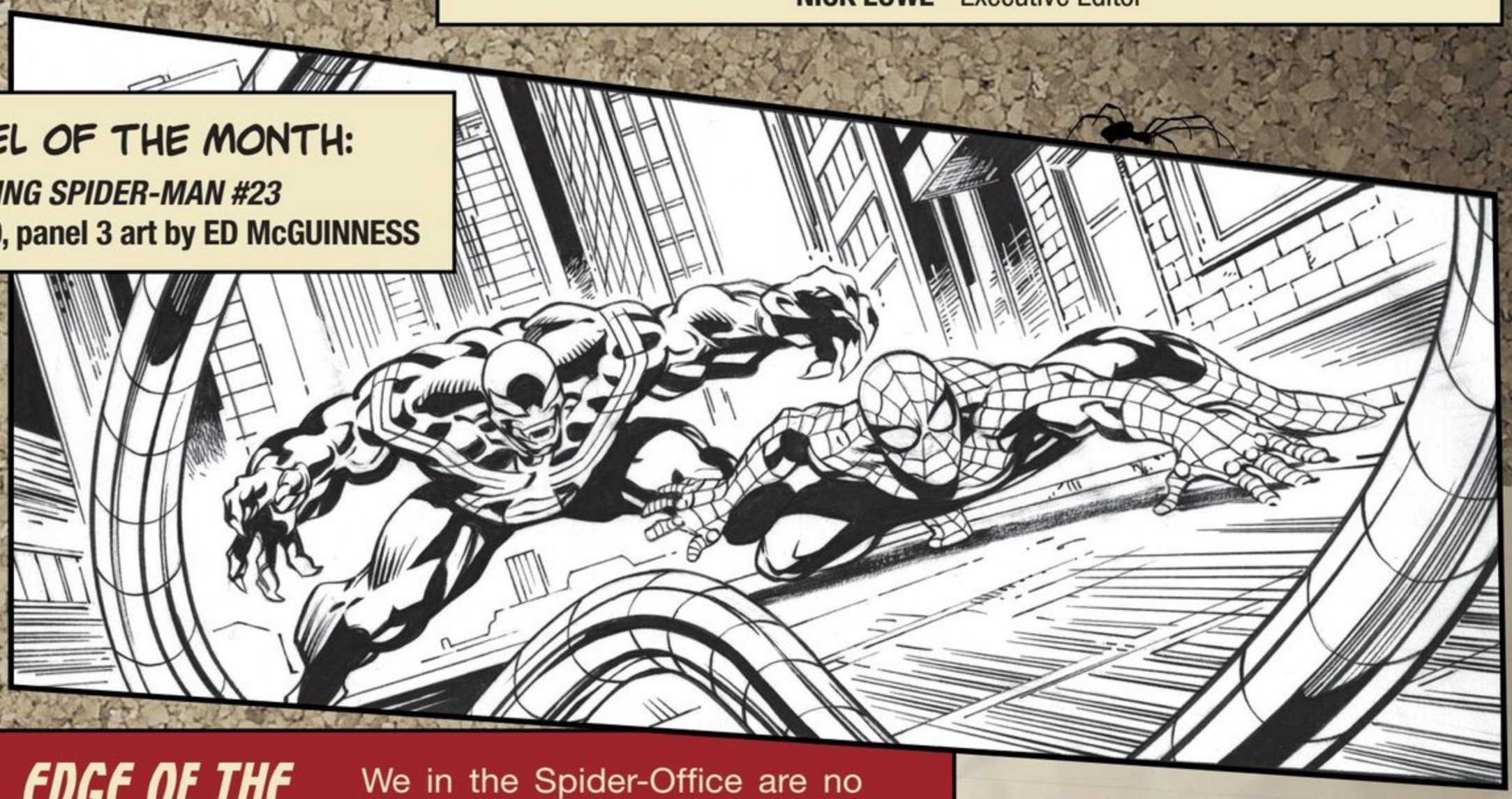
PANEL OF THE MONTH:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23
page 9, panel 3 art by ED McGUINNESS



EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants—we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant covers of the month.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL
Connecting Variant Covers by IBAN COELLO

GAMMA CORNER

HULK VERSUS THE ONE ABOVE ALL

"Surely you can't mean—"

We do.

The Infernal Hulk, the baddest Hulk there's ever been, takes on the ultimate creator. Who will win? Well, we've got another Hulk issue coming out next month, so...place your bets.

INFERNAL HULK #5
On sale 3/18

NEXT

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